(iv) non-prforming assets not exceeding 15 per cent of total outstanding loans.

RBI have advised the banks satisfying the above criteria to submit to them a yearly plan duly approved by their Board of Directors for opening branches to enable RBI to advise their concerned Regional offices for issue of licences.

RBI have further reported that during the year 1995-96, they have issued 569 authorisations to public sector banks to open branches in various States/Union Territories.

Inclusion of Dalit Christians in scheduled caste category

3581. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to include the Dalit Christians into the category of Scheduled Castes; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to amend the present law and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) The matter of recognition of Scheduled Caste converts to Christianity as belonging to Scheduled Castes is under the consideration of the Government.

Aid received from abroad for hospitals

3582. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what annual aid was received from abroad for Health Services in the country during the last three years, hospital-wise;

(b) what is the annual expenditure incurred by Government on each of such hospital during this period; and

(c) the annual aid which is likely to be received from abroad for health during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) Central Government does not generally receive assistance for Hospitals except as part of programme assistance in which interalia some hospitals get upgraded. The external assistance available for central health sector programmes in the last three years was as under:—

1993-94	Rs. 82.85 crores
1994-95	Rs. 114.45 crores
1995-96	Rs. 216.07 crores

(c) During the current year external funding to the extent of Rs. 370.00 crores is expected for the health sector. This interalia includes assistance for upgrading the Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital, New Delhi under Japanees financial support.

Heavy loss to Doordarshan on account of Chandrakanta Serial

3583. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has incurred heavy loss on some serials like 'Chandrakanta' which had been run at prime time and extended to a number of episodes beyond limit and proportion over months and years on end;

(b) if so, the details of serials on which losses have been incurred from 1993-94 onwards;

(c) how many episodes were permitted to be telecast in each case and the amount of loss incurred in each case; and

(d) the reasons for permitting numerous episodes despite losses?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) The infor-